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Letter dated 5 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a press release by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Nkosazana D. Zuma, on the positive developments regarding the implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The African Union welcomes the progress being made in the implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan

14 October 2015

The Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Dr. Nkosazana D. Zuma, welcomes the recent progress made in the implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement between the Sudan and South Sudan, concluded under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel. In this respect, she notes with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the extraordinary meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 14 October 2015 under the auspices of the Implementation Panel. In the decisions signed at the end of the meeting, the parties notably accepted the map and the centre-line proposed by the Implementation Panel to facilitate the establishment of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The parties also agreed on a number of steps to improve the working methods of the Mechanism subcommittees, to ensure that all other outstanding issues are effectively addressed.

The Chairperson of the Commission commends the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan for their renewed commitment to the full implementation of the September 2012 Cooperation Agreement. She also expresses appreciation to the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for its tireless efforts towards assisting the two countries in their quest for peace.

The successful convening of the extraordinary session of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism follows the holding in Addis Ababa, from 6 to 8 October 2015, of the 4th meeting of the Joint Boundary Commission between the Sudan and South Sudan, under the facilitation of the African Union Border Programme. The meeting of the Commission concluded successfully, with the parties agreeing on specific steps to expedite the demarcation of their common border, in particular the preparation of a demarcation plan, including a budget for the entire exercise, and the acceleration of the opening of an escrow account for the funding of this process.

The decisions reached by the Joint Political and Security Mechanism and the resolutions of the Joint Boundary Commission lay a solid foundation towards achieving sustainable peace between the two countries. They will also have a positive effect in the search for peace in South Sudan. The Chairperson reaffirms the African Union's unwavering support to the two countries in their efforts to build two viable States living side by side in peace and cooperating on all issues of mutual interest.